
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 414

AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES' CERTIFICATION OR SIGNATURE.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to certify, sign, or otherwise document medical information in specified situations that currently require a physician's signature, certification, or documentation. Several of the certifications covered by the bill involve situations where someone must provide medical information to establish an exemption from otherwise applicable requirements (e.g., certifications that someone is ill or incapacitated and thus needs an extension for applying for certain tax relief programs).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

APRN CERTIFICATIONS, SIGNATURES, OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION

The bill allows APRNs to do the following, which under existing law, with a few exceptions, only a physician is authorized to do:

1. certify that a high school student's participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the student's physical condition, thus excusing the student from physical education requirements (§ 1);
2. certify that a student enrolling in a higher education institution has had a confirmed case of measles, rubella, mumps, or varicella, or that immunization would be medically contraindicated, thus exempting the student from the requirement to show proof of having been immunized against such diseases (§ 2);

3. certify that a student's presence at a higher education institution, although the student is not immunized against measles or rubella, would not present a clear health danger to others, thus preventing the student from being excluded from school or confined in an infirmary or other medical facility at the school (§ 3);
4. certify that a student's physical condition medically contraindicates vaccination against meningitis, thus exempting the student from the general requirement that students who live in on-campus housing at public or private colleges or universities be vaccinated against the disease (§ 4);
5. certify that someone is totally disabled and thus unable to appear before the town assessor to provide evidence of eligibility for property tax exemptions available to service members, veterans, blind or totally disabled persons, and certain family members of such people (§ 5);
6. certify that someone is ill or incapacitated, for purposes of the person applying for an extension related to various tax relief or tax credit programs, including the property tax freeze program for the elderly (§ 6), elderly or disabled renters' tax relief program (§ 7), municipal optional property tax freeze for seniors program (§ 8), and "circuit breaker" property tax program for the elderly or disabled (§ 9);
7. for purposes of laws prohibiting utility shut-offs in certain circumstances, (a) indicate on the hospital discharge papers for a child up to 24 months old that electric or gas service is a necessity for the child's health and well-being (§ 10) or (b) certify that a resident at the dwelling is seriously ill (§ 11);
8. certify that it would not be injurious to the health of a handicapped person or disabled veteran to work extended hours in manufacturing, mechanical, or mercantile establishments, restaurants, and various other settings (§§ 12-14);

9. document that someone has a physical or mental impairment that is chronic or expected to be long-term or permanent and that leaves the person unable to work full-time, for purposes of the person's eligibility for unemployment compensation while only available for part-time work (§ 15);
10. certify that someone with partial incapacity is unable to perform his or her usual work but is able to perform other work, for purposes of calculating worker's compensation benefits (§ 16);
11. certify a political subdivision employee's proposed organ or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the person's recovery, for purposes of the person seeking medical leave for the donation (§ 17);
12. certify the occurrence of a qualifying event (e.g., a medical condition expected to result in death within a year) for purposes of accelerated benefits under a life insurance policy (§ 18);
13. provide a statement that a policy owner is of sound mind and under no constraint or undue influence, before a life settlement provider can enter into a life settlement contract with a policy owner who is also the insured and who is terminally or chronically ill (§ 19);
14. determine that an owner's physical or mental disability prevents the owner from full-time employment, for purposes of an exception to the general prohibition on someone entering into a life settlement contract before, when, or within two years of purchasing a life insurance policy (§ 19); and
15. provide the APRN's identification number, signature, and contact information on the standard Health Care Financing Administration 1500 (HCFA 1500) health insurance claim form, for purposes of providing, along with various other information, the minimum information needed for a health care provider's claim for payment to be complete (§ 20).

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

Among other things, HB 5387 (File 102), reported favorably by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, allows a health care provider to submit his or her National Provider Identifier, instead of a federal tax identification number, on the HCFA 1500 health insurance claim form.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/29/2012)